

## 50 States script: Tennessee

Hey there! My name is Dalton and I am currently working as the POL/ECON intern at the U.S. Embassy in Vienna.

Today, I'd like to tell you a little something about my home-state of Tennessee.

The Volunteer State earned its nickname due to the prominent role of volunteer soldiers from Tennessee during the Mexican–American War, when President Polk called for 2,600 nationwide volunteers, which resulted in 30,000 volunteers from Tennessee alone.

On June 1<sup>st</sup> 1796, Tennessee became the 16<sup>th</sup> state to be admitted to the Union.

Tennessee's capital and the largest city is Nashville, which is also nicknamed *Music City* for playing a critical role in the development of many forms of American popular music, including rock and roll, blues, country, and rockabilly. Nashville is also home to the longest continuously running live radio program in the world: The Grand Ole Opry. Since 1925, it has broadcast every Friday and Saturday night. Tennessee is also home to the Jack Daniel's distillery, the Tennessee Titans our NFL team and the Nashville Predators, our hockey team.

Next to its booming record industry, Tennessee is predominantly industrial, its chief industries being automotive and electronics manufacturing. The state's largest crops are both greenhouse and nursery soybeans and due to its history Tennessee is still a leading tobacco producer.

Memphis, the state's second largest city, it is known for Elvis Presley's home: Graceland. The National Civil Rights Museum is also located in Memphis.

Tennessee has been the birthplace of numerous famous Americans, including Quentin Tarantino and oh so many musicians! Just think of Dolly Parton, Aretha Franklin, Tina Turner or more recently Miley Cyrus, and Justin Timberlake.

There are also quite a few natural attractions to visit in Tennessee. Named for the smoke-like bluish haze that often envelops the park's majestic mountains, *The Great Smoky Mountains National Park* is the United States' most visited national park. Then there is the breathtaking *Ruby Falls* in Chattanooga, as well as the largest underground lake in the U.S.: *the Lost Sea*. We are also home to over 3,800 caves—more than any other state.

I hope I was able to tell you something you didn't know about Tennessee today and hope you'll now want to pay this beautiful state a visit someday!